

Serial. No. 10/734,744
Response dated January 6, 2006
Reply to Office action of October 6, 2005

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently amended) An aggregate treated with an antifreeze comprising as components calcium nitrate, magnesium nitrate, and at least one of diethylene glycol, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, ~~sodium chloride, or magnesium acetate, or potassium acetate,~~ wherein the total concentration of said components in said antifreeze ranges from 10 to 55 wt. %.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Previously presented) The aggregate of claim 9, wherein the concentration of calcium nitrate in said antifreeze ranges from 30 to 55 wt. %.

12-15. (Cancelled).

16. (Previously presented) An aggregate treated with an antifreeze comprising magnesium nitrate and at least one corrosion inhibitor, wherein the concentration of magnesium nitrate in said antifreeze ranges from 20 to 40 wt. %.

17. (Original) The aggregate of claim 16, wherein said at least one corrosion inhibitor comprises at least one of sodium nitrite or calcium nitrite.

18. (Original) The aggregate of claim 17, wherein the concentration of said corrosion inhibitor is greater than zero and not greater than 5 wt. %.

19. (Original) The aggregate of claim 18, wherein the concentration of said corrosion inhibitor ranges from 0.5 to 1.5 wt. %.

20-29. (Cancelled).

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30. (Previously presented) A method of preventing freezing of coal comprising applying an antifreeze comprising magnesium nitrate and at least one corrosion inhibitor to the surface of said coal, wherein the concentration of magnesium nitrate in said antifreeze ranges from 20 to 40 wt. %.

31-32. (Cancelled).

33. (Previously presented) An aggregate treated with an antifreeze comprising magnesium nitrate and at least one other antifreeze agent, wherein the concentration of magnesium nitrate in said antifreeze ranges from 20 to 40 wt. %.

34. (Previously presented) The aggregate of claim 33, wherein said at least one other antifreeze agent is at least one of diethylene glycol, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, sodium chloride, magnesium acetate, or potassium acetate.

35. (Currently amended) A method of preventing freezing of coal aggregates comprising contacting said coal aggregates with an antifreeze comprising ~~a salt comprising as~~ components calcium nitrate, magnesium nitrate, and at least one of diethylene glycol, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, sodium chloride, magnesium acetate, or potassium acetate, wherein the total concentration of said ~~salt~~ components in said antifreeze ranges from 30 to 45 wt. %.

36. (Previously presented) An aggregate treated with an antifreeze comprising as components calcium nitrate and magnesium nitrate, wherein said antifreeze is an aqueous solution of said components and wherein the total concentration of said components in said antifreeze ranges from 10 to 55 wt. %.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the at least one corrosion inhibitor comprises at least one of sodium nitrite or calcium nitrite.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the concentration of said corrosion inhibitor is greater than zero and not greater than 5 wt. %.

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39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the concentration of said corrosion inhibitor ranges from 0.5 to 1.5 wt. %.

40. (Previously presented) The aggregate of claim 36, wherein said antifreeze further comprises at least one other antifreeze agent different from said components.

41. (Previously presented) The aggregate of claim 38, wherein said at least one other antifreeze agent is at least one of diethylene glycol, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, sodium chloride, magnesium acetate, or potassium acetate.

42. (Previously presented) An aggregate treated with a composition comprising an antifreeze and at least one corrosion inhibitor, wherein the antifreeze consisting essentially of calcium nitrate and wherein the concentration of said calcium nitrate in said composition ranges from 10 to 55 wt. %.

43. (Previously presented) The aggregate of claim 42, wherein the concentration of said calcium nitrate in said composition ranges from 30 to 55 wt. %.

44. (Previously presented) The aggregate of claim 42, wherein the at least one corrosion inhibitor comprises at least one of sodium nitrite or calcium nitrite.

45. (Previously presented) The aggregate of claim 42, wherein the concentration of said corrosion inhibitor in said composition is greater than zero and not greater than 5 wt. %.

46. (Previously presented) The aggregate of claim 42, wherein the concentration of said corrosion inhibitor in said composition ranges from 0.5 to 1.5 wt. %.

47. (Previously presented) A method of preventing freezing of aggregates comprising applying a composition comprising an antifreeze and at least one corrosion inhibitor to the surface of said coal, wherein the antifreeze consisting essentially of calcium nitrate and wherein the concentration of said calcium nitrate in said composition ranges from 10 to 55 wt. %.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the concentration of said calcium nitrate in said composition ranges from 30 to 55 wt. %.

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49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the at least one corrosion inhibitor comprises at least one of sodium nitrite or calcium nitrite.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the concentration of said corrosion inhibitor in said composition is greater than zero and not greater than 5 wt. %.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the concentration of said corrosion inhibitor in said composition ranges from 0.5 to 1.5 wt. %.